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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 8 and 10 to 12 are pending. No claims are allowed.

1. Claims 1 to 8 and 11 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Loewen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,712,299. The relevance of Loewen et al. has been thoroughly discussed in the amendments filed April 1 and May 29, 2003.

Independent claims 1, 5 and 11 have been amended to set forth that each of the current collectors comprise planar first and second major faces, the entire extent of which are oriented generally parallel to each other and extending to an intermediate peripheral edge. This is not to say that the current collectors are not of a flexible material that cannot be folded or used in a non-planar electrode assembly. This claimed aspect of the Applicants' invention means that when the current collectors are connected to the elongate support member during the manufacturing process, their major faces are oriented generally parallel to each other until the manufacturing process is complete. After manufacture of the current collectors is finished, they may very well be further processed into electrochemical cells where they will be formed or manipulated into non-planar orientations, such as, for example, a jellyroll electrode assembly or the folded wing assembly described in U.S. Patent No. 5,250,373 to Muffoletto et al.

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In their presently amended form, pending independent claims 1, 5 and 11 are believed to include novel structure in light of the referenced Loewen et al. patent. Claims 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 are allowable as hinging from patentable base claims.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

2. Claims 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loewen et al. in view of Cobaugh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,803,537). The teachings of Cobaugh et al. are essentially as set forth by the Examiner in the office action. However, claims 10 and 12 depend from amended independent claims 5 and 11, respectively. In their amended form, these independent claims are believed to be patentable over Loewen et al., and the teachings of Cobaugh et al. do not destroy this. Accordingly, claims 10 and 12 are believed to be allowable as hinging from patentable base claims.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

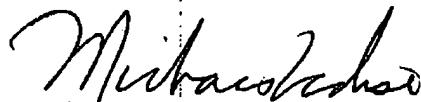
3. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being filed with this amendment.

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It is believed that claims 1 to 8 and 10 to 12 are now in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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